

# Behavioral Approaches to Categorization

1. **Definitional approach**
2. Prototype approach
3. Exemplar approach

# Definitional Approach

**Definitional approach:** determine category membership based on whether an item meets the definition of the category

# Definitional Approach

- *What is the defining feature of a **bachelor**?*

# Definitional Approach

- unmarried + human + male?
- *What is the defining feature of a **bachelor**?*

# Definitional Approach

- ~~What is the defining feature of a~~ ***bachelor?***

**Jack** is an unmarried male, but has been living with his girlfriend for ten years. Their relationship is stable and happy.

**Charles** is an unmarried male who does not have a partner. But Charles is a monk living in a monastery.

**Zachary** is an unmarried male, but he is two years old.

**Frank** is a married male, but has not seen his wife in many years. He dates often, hoping to find a new partner.

# Definitional Approach

- **Problem #1:** some categories do not readily lend themselves to feature analysis

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“I shall not today attempt to further define [pornography] ... but I know it when I see it..  
Potter Stewart



# Definitional Approach

- **Problem #2:** a violation of defining features does not change the category



# Definitional Approach

- **Problem #2:** a violation of defining features does not change the category

Birds can fly

